

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-12, 14-16 and 29-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to even further distinguish over the applied reference. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Hur during the telephone interview held September 17, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 14-16, 29, 30 and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Oross et al. (Oross), U.S. Patent No. 6,757,002. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Oross does not disclose a system or method of entering input into a computing system where a whole sensing panel functions as a single sensing area and a main process and one or more sub-processes can be invoked regardless of the location of a detected input movement on the sensing panel, as recited in independent claims 1 and 8.

As discussed during the interview, Oross discloses a general touch sensing area 34 and one or more specialized sensing areas that are dedicated to a specific function (see Figs. 2 and 10, col. 5, lines 54-57 and col. 6, lines 1-3). Oross discloses that the general touch sensing area 34 is used for controlling cursor movement (see col. 5, lines 54-57). The special touch sensing areas 36, 38 are separate from touch sensing area 34 and can either be dedicated to specific functions or can be user-programmable to implement desired programmable functions (see Fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 1-3). Oross does not disclose that functions associated with the special sensing areas 36, 38 can be invoked by a touch in the general sensing area 34. The general touch sensing area 34 and one or more specialized sensing areas of Oross

constitute multiple areas, whereas the claimed sensing panel distinguishes different touches on a single panel based on a hierarchical control of processes. Therefore, Oross does not disclose a system or method of entering input into a computing system where a whole sensing panel functions as a single sensing area and a main process and one or more sub-processes can be invoked regardless of the location of a detected input movement on the sensing panel, as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 and dependent claims 3, 5, 10, 14-16, 29, 30 and 32-35 are patentable over Oross. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

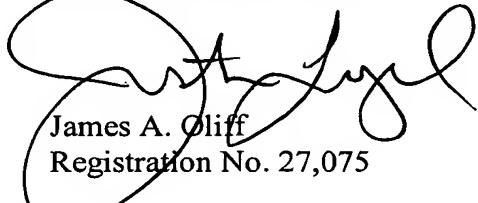
The Office Action rejects claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oross in view of Geaghan et al. (Geaghan), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0063073 A1; and rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oross in view of Umeya et al. (Umeya), U.S. Patent No. 6,028,581. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Because claims 4-6, 11 and 12 incorporate the features of independent claims 1 and 8, respectively, and because Geaghan and Umeya fail to overcome the deficiencies of Oross, these claims also are patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons, as well as for the additional features that these claims recite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JTL/emd

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 16, 2008

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